

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05

SAM-01 IO-13 /085 W

----- 001150

R 270500Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5157

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 2058

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, MY

SUBJECT: REPORT OF BERJAYA GRAFT CHARGES IN SINGAPORE PRESS

REF: BENNETT- GRANT TELCON OF APRIL 26

1. AS REQUESTED BY EMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR, THERE FOLLOW
PERTINENT EXTRACTS OF LEAD ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN APRIL 25
SUNDAY TIMES DESCRIBING CHARGES BY BERJAYA THAT TUN MUSTAPHA
IS TRYING TO "BUY" BERJAYA ASSEMBLYMEN. ARTICLE, BY BILL CAMPBELL,
IS DATELINED APRIL 24 FROM KOTA KINABALU AND WAS NOT PUBLISHED
IN NEW STRAITS TIMES IN MALAYSIA.

2. BERJAYA: NOVES TO BUY OVER OUR MEN

USNO AND ALLIANCE LEADER TUN MUSTAPHA WAS TODAY ACCUSED BY NEW
RULING PARTY BERJAYA, OF TRYING HIS BEST TO "BUY" OVER
BERJAYA ASSEMBLYMEN IN BID TO WREST CONTROL OF THE STATE
GOVERNMENT.

IN A STATEMENT, BERJAYA SAID A NUMBER OF EMISSARIES HAD CONTACTED
BERJAYA ASSEMBLYMEN AND PROMISED THEM "HUGE SUMS OF MONEY AND
LARGE AREAS OF TIMBERLAND" IF THEY DEFECTED.

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NEW DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER, DATU HARRIS SALLEH, WAS ALLEGEDLY

OFFERED THE CHIEF MINISTERSHIP IF HE WOULD LEAVE BERJAYA AND LEAD FIVE BERJAYA MEMBERS TO JOIN USNO.

"PROMISES OF LARGE SUMS OF MONEY, LARGE AREAS OF TIMBERLAND AND MINISTERIAL POSTS TO THE OTHERS WERE PROMISED," THE PARTY SAID.

THE DAILY EXPRESS THIS MORNING BANNER-HEADLINED THE REPORT:
"MUSTAPHA TRIES TO BUY BERJAYA ASSEMBLYMEN."

ACCORDING TO THE STATEMENT, DATU HARRIS WAS CONTACTED BY ENCIK SUBDIN GHANI, BROTHER OF HAJI KARIM GHANI (WHO WAS NARROWLY DEFEATED BY A BERJAYA CANDIDATE FOR THE KAWANG SEAT) CONVEYING FROM TUN MUSTAPHA OFFER OF CHIEF MINISTERSHIP.

THE NEW MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS, MR. CHONG THAIN VUN, WAS AMONG THOSE CONTACTED AND HE WAS PROMISED DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTERSHIP.

MR. CHONG REPORTEDLY TOLD THE USNO EMISSARY TO TELL TUN MUSTAPHA TO "GO JUMP IN THE LAKE."

TWO OTHERS WERE ALSO REPORTEDLY PROMISED THAT THEY WOULD BE MADE DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTERS IF THEY COULD GET ENOUGH MEMBERS TO JOIN USNO.

THERE WERE THREE DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTERS IN THE FORMER USNO CABINET.

NEARLY ALL THE BERJAYA ASSEMBLYMEN WERE APPARENTLY CONTACTED AND OFFERED THE SAME PROMISES OF MONEY AND TIMBERLAND JUDGING FROM REPORTS MADE TO BERJAYA SUPREME COUNCIL.

THE PARTY SAID TUN MUSTAPHA WAS "CHASING RAINBOWS" IF HE EXPECTED TO FIND ANY "PAYERS" IN BERJAYA LEADERSHIP.

THIS WAS IN DIRECT REFERENCE TO DATU PAYAR JUMAN, MINISTER OF CO-ORDINATION IN THE FORMER GOVERNMENT WHOSE DEFECTION FROM UPKO AFTER THE 1967 GENERAL ELECTIONS FOLLOWED BY OTHERS LED TO DISSOLUTION OF FORMER PARTY LED BY TUN FUAD STEPHENS AND VIRTUAL ONE-MAN-RULE BY TUN MUSTAPHA UNTIL BERJAYA WAS FORMED.
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DATU PAYAR NEVER LIVED DOWN HIS UNPOPULARITY AND, THOUGH PUT UP AS USNO CANDIDATE IN KIULU AGAINST TUN FUAD IN THE LATEST ELECTIONS, HE POLLED ONLY 284 VOTES AND HUMILIATINGLY LOST HIS DEPOSIT.

EXCEPT HIS STATEMENT ON TV TO SAY HE ACCEPTED THE VERDICT OF THE PEOPLE, TUN MUSTAPHA HAS SCARELY RECOGNIZED THE NEW GOVERN-

MENT. HE DID NOT ATTEND THE SWEARING-IN OF THE NEW CHIEF MINISTER
OR OF HIS CABINET.

3. ALSO IN SAME SUNDAY TIMES IS BIOGRAPHIC ARTICLE ON DATUK SYED
KETHINK BIN SYED MOHAMED, BILLED IN ARTICLE AS SABAH'S INVISIBLE
STRONGMAN. EMBASSY WILL FORWARD TO EMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR CLIPPING
OF THIS ARTICLE AND OTHER
ITEMS ON SABAH IN PRESS HERE IN LAST
WEEK OR SO WHICH EMBASSY BELIEVES MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN CARRIED
IN MALAYSIAN PRESS.
HOLDRIDGE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIBERY, PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL LEADERS, ALLEGATIONS, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SINGAP02058
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760159-0364
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760418/aaaaaooop.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 SEP 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 SEP 2004 by cookms>; RELEASED <01 SEP 2004 by cookms>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORT OF BERJAYA GRAFT CHARGES IN SINGAPORE PRESS
TAGS: PGOV, MY, (TUN MUSTAPHA)
To: KUALA LUMPUR
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006